



#### DISTRICT SEVEN COMMUNITIES

Allied Gardens  
Alvarado Estates  
Chollas Creek  
Colina del Sol  
College Area  
Del Cerro  
El Cerrito  
Fox Canyon  
Grantville  
Islenair  
MCAS Miramar  
Oak Park  
Rancho Encantada  
Redwood Village  
Rolando Park  
Rolando  
San Carlos  
SDSU  
Tierrasanta

# The Emerald News

SEPTEMBER 2012 • VOLUME 4 ISSUE 9

## Neighbors Take Action

In last month's edition of *The Emerald News*, I shared the story of neighborhood violence's innocent victims in the City Heights neighborhood of Swan Canyon. Residents of 44<sup>th</sup> Street, near Hamilton Elementary School, were reeling from a shooting that left two young men dead and a third permanently injured. More heartbreaking, witnesses included young children who, like their parents and neighbors, searched for answers to the senseless violence that crashed into their lives.

Yet this tragedy offered a new opportunity to forge new ties between this neighborhood and the government agencies dedicated to keeping our families safe. On August 12, the community, San Diego Unified School District, the San Diego Police Department, and the City's Human Relations and Gang Commissions met to address neighborhood violence. Several meetings held since have resulted in an emerging collaborative.

Members of this City Heights community are determined to prevent crime and violence in order to take back their neighborhood. Community members say protecting the safety of their children is their greatest concern, and building relationships and communication with our police officers comes in as a close second. Community members envision meeting regularly with police and seeing officers walking the beat, a visible warning to criminals. Today, neighbors are eager to get to know their neighbors, build bonds, and create a neighborhood watch that signals to gangsters that this cohesive community will not tolerate violence.

Since the beginning of this initiative, we have heard from other Mid City neighborhoods inspired by Swan Canyon's example to create similar initiatives to end street violence and find ways to empower themselves to create positive change.

My thanks to these visionaries who refuse to be victims and are committed to cultivating peace on their blocks. I also applaud the many volunteers, City and Hamilton Elementary School staff, and others inspired by the courage of residents to work tirelessly to make a difference. And by working together, we will transform this vision into a reality.

*Thanks, Marti*

## Community Representatives

### Marisa Berumen

Allied Gardens, Del Cerro,  
Grantville, Lake Murray, &  
Tierrasanta  
(619) 236-7754

[mberumen@sandiego.gov](mailto:mberumen@sandiego.gov)

### Cynthia Harris

City Heights & El Cerrito  
(619) 533-5897

[crharris@sandiego.gov](mailto:crharris@sandiego.gov)

### Chris Pearson

Oak Park,  
Redwood Village, Rolando,  
Rolando Park, & San Carlos  
(619) 236-6677

[cpearson@sandiego.gov](mailto:cpearson@sandiego.gov)

### Abigail Santos

City Heights  
(619) 236-6677

[santosa@sandiego.gov](mailto:santosa@sandiego.gov)

### Tim Taylor

College Area &  
Alvarado Estates  
(619) 533-4774

[taylor@sandiego.gov](mailto:taylor@sandiego.gov)

### Nahdia Mohammed

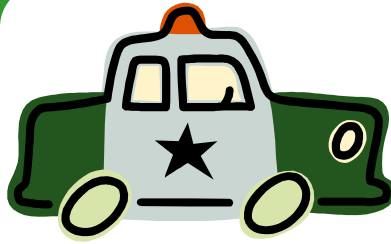
Executive Secretary  
(619) 236-6677

[nmohammed@sandiego.gov](mailto:nmohammed@sandiego.gov)

### Drew Ector

Committee Consultant  
Public Safety &  
Neighborhood Services  
(619) 236-7038

[dector@sandiego.gov](mailto:dector@sandiego.gov)



## Safety Speaks

This month Councilmember Emerald wants to highlight STAR/PAL (Sports Training, Academics, Recreation/Police Athletic League). STAR/PAL is a nonprofit organization that provides youth services to over 10,000 youth in inner-city neighborhoods throughout San Diego. STAR/PAL offers numerous free programs that are educational, athletic, and recreational programs focusing on promoting youth safety, positive life choices, and academic success.

STAR/PAL volunteers & directors are law enforcement officers from the San Diego Police & County Probation Departments. These devoted officers create and manage unique programs for underserved youth, with the assistance of additional law enforcement and community volunteers. By bringing youth and law enforcement officers together in this manner, STAR/PAL helps build safer communities in the future while building a trustworthy relationship.

As Chair of the City's Public Safety & Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee, Councilmember Emerald believes it is critical that San Diegans participate in these community conversations, like the "Neighborhood Dialogue" event held last month. These conversations help community members become aware of public safety issues and help identify the resources available to them to ensure safe neighborhoods.

PS&NS Committee will meet again on Wednesday October 3, 2012 at 2pm in City Hall. For any public safety related concerns, please contact Committee Consultant, Drew Ector, by calling (619) 236-7038 or emailing [dector@sandiego.gov](mailto:dector@sandiego.gov).

## Young Leaders Making A Difference

Councilmember Emerald recognized young participants of the Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) this month during the "Ocean Leaders Report to the Community." After an intensive summer internship, these student presented their research and experiences to industry leaders, scientists, professionals and their peers.



Photo Credit: Dennis Wood

In addition, ODI's Leaders Initiative offers a pathway for underrepresented students from secondary school through to university by providing afterschool and summer programs, with a comprehensive support system to help students succeed.

Congratulations Ocean Leaders for your dedication to educational achievement in the fields of science, conservation and environmentalism!

For more information on the Ocean Discovery Institute, please visit:

[www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org/](http://www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org/)

## Persistence Pays: Councilmember Gets The Job Done

After a year of hard work and collaboration with Councilmember Emerald's staff and City staff, Allied Gardens is celebrating the installation of street sweeping signs along Archwood Avenue and Crawford Street.

Thank you to residents, Ralph and Shirley Richardson, for their diligence in overseeing the installation of these signs. The signs allow for proper street sweeping and less trash in the storm drains.



Since 2002, College Area & El Cerrito residents expressed the need for traffic signals on College Avenue at Arosa Street & Adams Avenue.

Councilmember Emerald has worked with the community ever since 2008 to move this project forward. Construction began in the spring and completed in August – making the College Area's signature thoroughfare safer for people who live, work and attend school in the community.



After a water line replacement on Montezuma Road earlier this year, residents of the College Area were greatly relieved to see the street repaved in mid-August. Drivers and bicyclists can now enjoy a smooth and safe ride.

## Help When You Need It: 2-1-1 San Diego

2-1-1 San Diego serves the entire population of our region by connecting people with community, health and disaster services through a free, 24/7 stigma-free phone service and searchable online database. That comprehensive database provides access to 6,000+ community agencies, whom 2-1-1 works with to deliver the resources you need.

For example, 2-1-1 works closely with the County of San Diego, multiple partners and community leaders. In 2010, 2-1-1 launched the Benefits & Enrollment (B&E) Program. This program pre-screens callers for CalFresh eligibility, and last year B&E specialists completed over 76,000 applications for CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Trained 2-1-1 Client Service Representatives helped more than 220,000 San Diego residents last year and are standing by 24/7 with multilingual free services to help any caller connect to these of services:

Housing & Shelter Assistance  
Utility Assistance  
Military & Veterans Services  
Mental Health Resources  
Substance Abuse Resources  
Parenting Services  
Financial Assistance  
Education Assistance  
Physical Activity & Nutrition Resources

Food Assistance  
Disaster Response  
Healthcare Services  
Legal Services  
Senior Services  
Children's Services  
Volunteer Services  
Employment Resources  
And so much more...



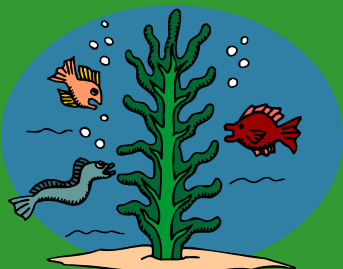
To search for services, just dial "2-1-1" or go to [www.211sandiego.org](http://www.211sandiego.org).



**Saturday,  
September 15,  
2012**



Join your neighbors at the 28th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 15th. Lend your support at one of more than 75 cleanup sites countywide from 9am—12pm. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to participate. For more information about this cleanup sites and registration, please visit [www.CleanupDay.org](http://www.CleanupDay.org)



## September Community Events

**Saturday, September 8, 2012 – Scandinavian Festival** will feature an authentic Scandinavian smorgasbord representing foods from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. This event goes on from 6 – 9pm at the Ascension Lutheran Church, 5106 Zion Avenue. Contact the church at (619) 582- 2636 for more information.

**Friday, September 14, 2012 – The Boulevard Nights** The Media Arts Center San Diego, Coffee & Tea Collective, and the Homebrewer will be hosting a block party with a live DJ, food and craft vendors, art, film, artisan roasted coffee, and a homebrew competition. The event will be held on the south side of El Cajon Blvd, between 30<sup>th</sup> & Kansas, from 7 to 9:30pm. More info at: [www.theboulevard.org](http://www.theboulevard.org).

**Saturday, September 15, 2012 – Inside the San Diego Police Department** is an interactive program to officers. Have the unique opportunity to participate in use-of-force, vehicle stop, and firearms training activities. See police K-9 units in action, and experience first-hand what it's like to be a cop. RSVP by September 12<sup>th</sup>, online at [www.sdpolicefoundation.org](http://www.sdpolicefoundation.org).

**Saturday, September 15, 2012 – Tierrasanta Concert in the Park** goes from 6-9pm at Tierrasanta Community Park, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and snacks to listen to High Tide, a Reggae/Rock/Ska band. For more info: [www.tierrasantacc.org](http://www.tierrasantacc.org).

**Sunday, September 16, 2012 – Fall Concert Series** features Che-Yen Chen, a Taiwanese-American violist and is the principal violist of the San Diego Symphony. The free events starts at 2:30pm at the Central Library, 820 E Street San Diego. For more information, please visit [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

**Tuesday, September 18, 2012 – SD Public Library Book Discussion** The City Heights/Weingart Branch Library, located at 3795 Fairmount Avenue, will host a discussion on Native American experiences of the U.S. Constitution at 6pm. It is being presented in conjunction with a four month project, Search for Democracy: A Public Conversation about the Constitution. For more events, please visit: [www.sandiegolibrary.gov](http://www.sandiegolibrary.gov).

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012 – Standing Together in Peace: Fair & Interfaith Vigil** will be held at Cherokee Point Elementary School and Park, 3735 38<sup>th</sup> Street, San Diego. The Peace Fair, from 4–6pm, will have booths, musical performances and food. The Interfaith Vigil, from 6–7pm will bring different faith perspectives together and have a candle lighting ceremony. Contact Pastor Sara for more information at (619) 573-5784.